

We Claim:

1. A blood processing system comprising an extracorporeal apparatus to receive the blood drawn from an individual and to conduct separation of the blood into plasma and at least one cellular blood component, and a device communicating with the extracorporeal apparatus to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators from either plasma, or the at least one cellular blood component, or both.

2. A blood processing system comprising an extracorporeal apparatus to receive the blood drawn from an individual and to conduct separation of the blood into plasma and at least one cellular blood component, and a device communicating with the extracorporeal apparatus to remove from either plasma, or the at least one cellular blood component, or both, cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of the separation of the blood.

3. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the extracorporeal apparatus conducts the separation of the blood, at least in part, by filtration.

4. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the extracorporeal apparatus conducts the separation of the blood, at least in part, by centrifugation.

5. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the cellular blood component includes a red blood cell component.

6. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the cellular blood component includes a platelet component.

7. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the cellular blood component includes a

white blood cell component.

8. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus returns at
least one cellular blood component to the individual
following removal of cytokines or other species of pro-
inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

9. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus retains at
least one cellular blood component following removal of
cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-
inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

10. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus returns
plasma to the individual following removal of cytokines or
other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory
stimulators or mediators.

11. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus retains
plasma following removal of cytokines or other species of
pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or
mediators.

12. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the device includes an adsorption medium
to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or
anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

13. A system according to claim 12
wherein the adsorption medium is characterized
by a Biocompatibility Index of not greater than 14.

14. A system according to claim 13
wherein the Biocompatibility Index is not greater
than 7.

15. A system according to claim 1 or 2
wherein the device is in an upstream flow
direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

16. A system according to claim 1 or 2

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wherein the device is in a downstream flow direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

17. A system according to claim 1 or 2

wherein the device includes an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators, the adsorption medium comprising a polymeric material.

18. A system according to claim 17

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene, ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, diisopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl methacrylate.

19. A system according to claim 17

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood complement system.

20. A system according to claim 17

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene copolymer having a surface modified to include surface exposed functional groups selected from the group of polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine, N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

21. A system according to claim 17

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.

22. A blood processing system comprising an extracorporeal apparatus to oxygenate the blood drawn from an individual and return the oxygenated blood to the

5 individual, and a device communicating with the apparatus to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators from the oxygenated blood.

5 23. A blood processing system comprising an extracorporeal apparatus to oxygenate the blood drawn from an individual and return the oxygenated blood to the individual, and a device communicating with the apparatus to remove from the oxygenated blood cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of extracorporeal processing.

24. A system according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the device includes an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

25. A system according to claim 24 wherein the adsorption medium is characterized by a Biocompatibility Index of not greater than 14.

26. A system according to claim 25 wherein the Biocompatibility Index is not greater than 7.

27. A system according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the device is in an upstream flow direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

28. A system according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the device is in a downstream flow direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

5 29. A system according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the device includes an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators, the adsorption medium comprising a polymeric material.

30. A system according to claim 29 wherein the polymeric material comprises

particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of
a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene,
5 ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, di
isopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl
methacrylate.

31. A system according to claim 29
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins
having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood
5 complement system.

32. A system according to claim 29
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene
copolymer having a surface modified to include surface
5 exposed functional groups selected from the group of
polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine,
N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

33. A system according to claim 29
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl
compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl
5 compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of
porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.

34. A blood processing system comprising an
extracorporeal apparatus to remove waste from the blood
drawn from an individual and return waste-depleted blood to
the individual, and a device communicating with the
5 apparatus to remove from the waste-depleted blood cytokines
or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory
stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of
extracorporeal processing.

35. A system according to claim 34
wherein the apparatus removes waste by
hemofiltration.

36. A system according to claim 34

wherein the apparatus removes waste by dialysis.

37. A system according to claim 34

wherein the device includes an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

38. A system according to claim 37

wherein the adsorption medium is characterized by a Biocompatibility Index of not greater than 14.

39. A system according to claim 38

wherein the Biocompatibility Index is not greater than 7.

40. A system according to claim 34

wherein the device is in an upstream flow direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

41. A system according to claim 34

wherein the device is in a downstream flow direction from the extracorporeal apparatus.

42. A system according to claim 34

wherein the device includes an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators, the adsorption medium comprising a polymeric material.

43. A system according to claim 42

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene, ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, diisopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl methacrylate.

44. A system according to claim 42

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood complement system.

45. A system according to claim 42

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene copolymer having a surface modified to include surface
5 exposed functional groups selected from the group of polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine, N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

46. A system according to claim 42

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl
5 compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.

47. A blood processing method comprising the steps of

conveying the blood drawn from an individual to an extracorporeal apparatus,

5 operating the extracorporeal apparatus to conduct separation of the blood into plasma and at least one cellular blood component, and

removing cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators
10 from either plasma, or the at least one cellular blood component, or both.

48. A blood processing method comprising the steps of

conveying the blood drawn from an individual to an extracorporeal apparatus,

5 operating the extracorporeal apparatus to conduct separation of the blood into plasma and at least one cellular blood component, and

removing from either plasma, or the at least one cellular blood component, or both, cytokines or other
10 species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of the separation of the blood.

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49. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus conducts the
separation of the blood, at least in part, by filtration.

50. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the extracorporeal apparatus conducts the
separation of the blood, at least in part, by
centrifugation.

51. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the cellular blood component includes a
red blood cell component.

52. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the cellular blood component includes a
platelet component.

53. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the cellular blood component includes a
white blood cell component.

54. A method according to claim 47 or 48
further including returning at least one cellular
blood component to the individual following removal of
cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-
inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

55. A method according to claim 47 or 48
further including retaining at least one cellular
blood component following removal of cytokines or other
species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators
or mediators.

56. A method according to claim 47 or 48
further including returning plasma to the
individual following removal of cytokines or other species
of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or
mediators.

57. A method according to claim 47 or 48
further including retaining plasma following
removal of cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or
anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

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58. A method according to claim 47 or 48
wherein the removing step includes use of an
adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of
pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or
mediators.

59. A method according to claim 58
wherein the adsorption medium comprises a
polymeric material.

60. A method according to claim 59
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of
a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene,
ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, di
isopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl
methacrylate.

61. A method according to claim 59
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins
having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood
complement system.

62. A method according to claim 59
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene
copolymer having a surface modified to include surface
exposed functional groups selected from the group of
polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine,
N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

63. A method according to claim 59
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl
compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl
compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of
porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.

64. A blood processing method comprising the
steps of

conveying the blood drawn from an individual to
an extracorporeal apparatus,

5 operating the extracorporeal apparatus to
oxygenate the blood, and

removing cytokines or other species of pro-
inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators
from the oxygenated blood.

65. A blood processing method comprising the
steps of

conveying the blood drawn from an individual to
an extracorporeal apparatus,

5 operating the extracorporeal apparatus to
oxygenate the blood, and

removing from the oxygenated blood cytokines or
other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory
stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of
10 extracorporeal processing.

66. A method according to claim 64 or 65

wherein the removing step includes use of an
adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of
pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or
5 mediators.

67. A method according to claim 66

wherein the adsorption medium comprises a
polymeric material.

68. A method according to claim 67

wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of
a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene,
5 ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, di
isopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl
methacrylate.

69. A method according to claim 67

wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins

having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood complement system.

70. A method according to claim 67

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene copolymer having a surface modified to include surface exposed functional groups selected from the group of polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine, N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

71. A method according to claim 67

wherein the polymeric material comprises particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.

72. A blood processing method comprising

conveying the blood drawn from an individual to an extracorporeal apparatus,

operating the extracorporeal apparatus to remove waste from the blood and return waste-depleted blood to the individual, and

removing from the waste-depleted blood cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators that are generated as a result of extracorporeal processing.

73. A method according to claim 72

wherein the apparatus removes waste by hemofiltration.

74. A method according to claim 72

wherein the apparatus removes waste by dialysis.

75. A method according to claim 72

wherein the removing step includes use of an adsorption medium to remove cytokines or other species of pro-inflammatory or anti-inflammatory stimulators or mediators.

76. A method according to claim 75
wherein the adsorption medium comprises a
polymeric material.

77. A method according to claim 76
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles prepared by polymerization or copolymerization of
a monomer selected from a group consisting of styrene,
ethylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, divinylbenzene, di
isopropenyl benzene, trivinylbenzene, and alkyl
methacrylate.

78. A method according to claim 76
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from crosslinked polystyrene-type resins
having a surface modified to minimize activation of blood
complement system.

79. A method according to claim 76
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed from a porous hydrophobic divinylbenzene
copolymer having a surface modified to include surface
exposed functional groups selected from the group of
polymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, N-vinylpyrrolidine,
N-vinylcaprolactame and N-acrylamide.

80. A method according to claim 76
wherein the polymeric material comprises
particles formed by polymerization of aromatic divinyl
compounds or their copolymerization with aromatic monovinyl
compounds in the presence of porogens or mixtures of
porogens with properties close to those of θ -solvents.